RE: Tow trucks: RFA advice

From: "Keenan, Michael" <"/o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=d0e2cfddb12445fbadb595d3547e8042-michael.kee">
To: "Hill, Miled" <miled.hill@tc.gc.ca>, "Brosseau, Kevin" <kevin.brosseau@tc.gc.ca>
Cc: "Maka, Mike" <mike.maka@tc.gc.ca>, Ninu Forrest <ninu.forrest@tc.gc.ca>, "Brackenridge, Jimmy" <jimmy.brackenridge@tc.gc.ca>, "Thangaraj, Arun" <arun.thangaraj@tc.gc.ca>
Date: Sat, 12 Feb 2022 23:39:10 +0000

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Miled,
We have a call at 7:30 with on tow truck strategy with principals from PSPC, PS and RCMP. Will confer with them, and get back to you right after the call.
Michael

From: Hill, Miled <Miled.Hill@tc.gc.ca>
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 5:38 PM
To: Keenan, Michael <michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca>; Brosseau, Kevin <Kevin.Brosseau@tc.gc.ca>
Cc: Maka, Mike <mike.maka@tc.gc.ca>; Ninu Forrest <ninu.forrest@tc.gc.ca>; Brackenridge, Jimmy <jimmy.brackenridge@tc.gc.ca>
Subject: Tow trucks: RFA advice

Hey folks, I was just added to a chain about tow trucks. Blair's office and PMO asking for our input as they say we're leading coordination with Alberta. Specific issue is purchasing of tow trucks - Deputy I know you mentioned this on special MINDM. Any thoughts or other insights?
Below is current draft of RFA request response and specific mention - Deputy, Kevin, looking for your comments on specific reference to TC and what specifically we should say.
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> Dear Minister:
>
> Thank you for your correspondence of February 5, 2022, in which you requested federal assistance in relation to the demonstration occurring near the Coutts, Alberta, border crossing to the United States, where heavy vehicles are impeding the flow of traffic. This is a complex and dynamic situation that continues to impede the free movement of Albertans, and of critical goods and services. I understand that attempts by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), under the jurisdiction of Alberta, have not been successful in persuading the participants of the demonstration to remove their vehicles. I also understand that the Coutts Port of Entry is now closed to all traffic and alternate Ports of Entry nearby that have commercial traffic lanes and hours have been extended to help mitigate disruptions.
>
> In recognition of these extraordinary challenges, I understand that a request has been approved for additional law enforcement resources for the RCMP under subarticle 9 of the Provincial Police Services Agreement. I am also aware that officials at Transport Canada and the Alberta Ministry of Transportation have been in regular contact to support compliance and enforcement. These can include suspending licenses and issuing fines.
>
> These blockades are not just having an impact on Canada. From the beginning, our government has engaged with our counterparts in the United States. Min. Alghabra has spoken to his US counterpart, Sec. Buttigieg and is prepared to offer any assistance necessary to support the free flow of goods. The Canada Border Services Agency is prepared to facilitate the movement of tow trucks into Canada should they be made available by local authorities. However, I would encourage you to exhaust all alternatives you have in Alberta or regionally, including engaging industry for any equipment that may be of assistance.

My colleagues and I have given your request serious consideration and we have consulted key partners to assess our ability to assist you. Given the lack of commercial resources, s.38 s.38 [redacted]

Further, I understand that Alberta has the required legal authorities necessary to enforce compliance, as a highway is considered essential infrastructure, and it is unlawful to wilfully obstruct, interrupt or interfere with the construction, maintenance, use or operation of any essential infrastructure in a manner that renders the essential infrastructure dangerous, useless, inoperative or ineffective as per the Critical Infrastructure Defence Act of Alberta. There are a number of contraventions of other applicable legislation that may also be enforced by Alberta and its police forces. I encourage you to look to the actions taken in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Ontario who have used new or existing authorities to safeguard critical infrastructure.

As in any Canadian community, the local police are leading the management of the situation, and operational decisions are taken by the police within the province of jurisdiction.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for the Government of Alberta's continued collaboration and understanding. The freedom to engage in lawful, peaceful assembly is a fundamental Charter right. Rest assured that as the situation unfolds, the Government of Canada's engagement and support will continue and the use of federal resources may be reconsidered at a future date once all other provincial options and capabilities have been exhausted. I would welcome an opportunity to speak with you regarding this request at your earliest convenience.

Miled Hill
Directeur des politiques | Cabinet du ministre des Transports
Director of Policy | Office of the Minister of Transport
C: Irrelevant [redacted]